

ASPEN'S PATH TO 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY



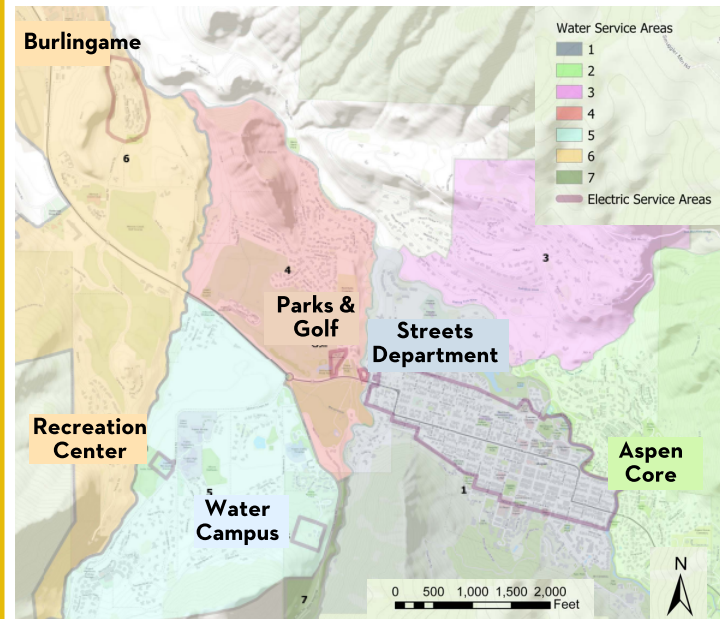
Aspen's Renewable Energy Story

In 1885, Aspen became the first American municipality west of the Mississippi to use hydroelectric power. Today, the City of Aspen electric system uses **100% renewable energy**.

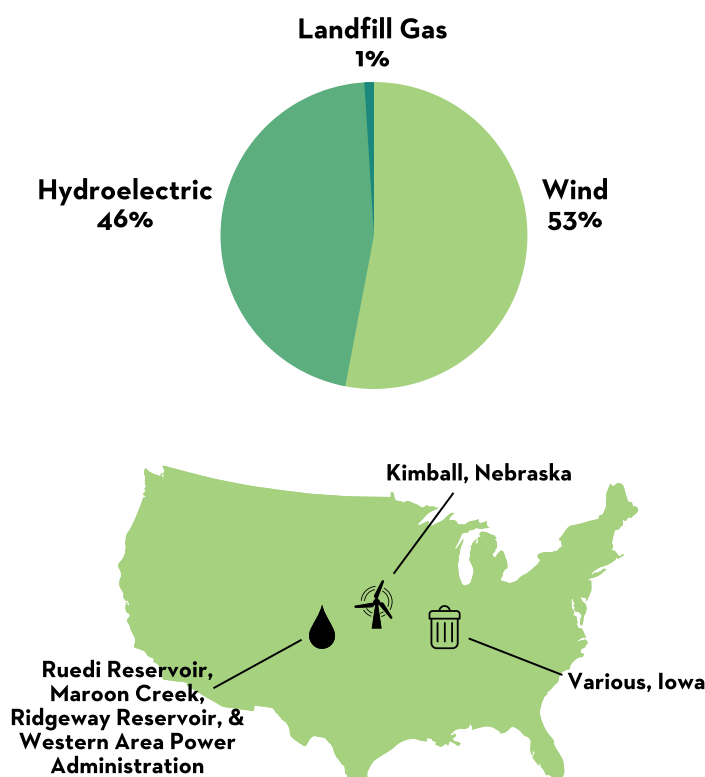
The City adopted its first Climate Action Plan in 2007, which included a commitment to power its municipal electric utility with 100% renewable sources. Nearly a decade of commitment, strategic progress, and community engagement led to Aspen achieving the goal in 2015!

Since 2015, Aspen has maintained its 100% renewable electricity profile and competitive rates. By showing the economic viability of renewable energy integration, Aspen hopes this model will be adapted worldwide.

Aspen Utilities Service Area



Energy Sources



Pathway to 100% Renewable Electricity

1. Defining "Renewable"

The City of Aspen defines "renewable energy" as that obtained from solar, wind, geothermal, and hydropower sources, with landfill and sewage gases to be considered on a case by case basis.



2. Identifying Sources

To supplement the hydroelectric power generated locally, the City researched other options for renewable energy in Aspen, and decided to focus on two sources for further investigation: wind energy and landfill gas.



3. Securing Contracts

The City of Aspen collaborated with wholesale power suppliers to secure contracts for our wind energy and landfill gas resources.

REACHING 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY



Aspen's Process: What Did We Learn?



Define Goals

Define renewable energy targets and develop a strategy to assemble the necessary resources.



Create Strong Relationships

Work directly with utility and wholesale power providers to identify mutually beneficial goals.



Be Willing to Take Risks

Take initiative, such as an early investment in new technology, in order to achieve energy targets.



Engage the Community

Check in with the community on the various economic and quality of life benefits that come with renewable energy.



Persevere

Keep at it! This process can take years of sustained work, but the result is well worth it.

Complimentary Program: Building IQ



Building IQ is a City of Aspen Initiative aimed to help commercial and multifamily buildings save energy and

water through a process called benchmarking. Benchmarking involves tracking a building's energy and water usage over time and comparing it to buildings of a similar use type. Not only will this help the City of Aspen better understand our building sector's energy usage, but will also help building owners reduce their building's greenhouse gas emissions. [Learn More.](#)

Wholesale Power Provider

Aspen Electric acquires much of its power through the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), a not-for-profit wholesale electricity supply organization. Created in 1981, MEAN provides cost-based power supply, transmission and related services to 69 participating communities in four states: Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Resources (Clickable Links)

[City of Aspen Utilities Department](#)

[National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)

[100% Renewable Energy Toolkit](#)

[Sierra Club 2018 Renewable Energy Case Study](#)

[WRI - Utilizing City-Utility Partnership Agreements](#)

[Utility Dive: Aspen's Road to 100](#)

[American Cities Climate Challenge](#)

Partners (Clickable Links)

[**City of Aspen
Utilities Department**](#)

[**Municipal Energy Agency
of Nebraska**](#)

[**City of Aspen Climate
Action Office**](#)

[**National Renewable
Energy Laboratory**](#)

**Questions? Contact Utilities@cityofaspen.com or
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